

Design Integrity Panel --Advice

Meeting Subject	Indigenous Centre of Excellence, Western Sydney University Parramatta South Campus (171 Victoria Road, Parramatta) Design Integrity Panel Meeting
Location	Virtual Zoom
Date & Time	8 July 2024 at 2.00pm – 3.30pm AEDT

This letter summarises the Design Integrity Panel’s (the Panel) commentary on the material presented by Jackson Clements Burrows Architects (JCBA) to the Panel on 8 July 2024. The focus of the meeting was to present the work undertaken since JCBA’s appointment as the winner of the Design Competition held for the project, with the objective of the Panel to review the scheme for SSDA in the context of its ability to achieve design excellence.

The general structure of the meeting included a summary of the development’s progress with respect to the building plane and program, refinement of the building’s façade, landscape and its features, as well as changes to access and entries across the proposed development on the site identified as Lot 100 in DP 816829, Parramatta (the site).

This session was held online and was attended by the established Panel for the Design Competition Process for the project, as well as the design team, Proponent and representatives from the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure. The specific details of the attendees are as follows:

Meeting Invitees	Position/Role
Design Team	
Sarah Lynn Rees	Associate Principal, Jackson Clements Burrows
Tim Jackson	Director, Jackson Clements Burrows
Will Christian	Associate, Jackson Clements Burrows
Peter Stutchbury	Peter Stutchbury Architecture
Belinda Koopman	Peter Stutchbury Architecture
Selection Committee	
Dillon Kombumerri (Yugambah/Quandamooka)	(Chair) Principal Architect, GANSW
Professor Liz Cameron (Darug)	Associate Professor, University of Newcastle
John Choi	Director, CHROFI
Carroll Go-Sam (Dyirbal gumbilbara bama)	Senior Lecturer, Indigenous Engagement, School of Architecture, Design and Planning, University of Queensland
Dolla Merrillies	Director, Western Sydney Creative
Professor Michelle Trudgett Wiradjuri)	Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Indigenous Leadership, Western Sydney University
Apology Sebastian Goldspink (Darug)	Curator and writer
Indigenous Advisory Group	
Brendan Thomas (Darug)	(Chair) Director, Ngalawa Nura
Fiona Towney (Wiradjuri)	Director, Indigenous Futures, Western Sydney University
Michelle Locke (Darug - Boorooberongal)	Senior Lecturer, School of Education, Western Sydney University
Cultural Lead	
Dr Danièle Hromek (Budawang /Dhurga /Yuin, Burrier/Dharawal)	Cultural Advisor Director, Djinjama
Mathew Cornwell (Wiradjuri)	Director, Ngurra Advisory

Project Team and Observers

Andrew Mackenzie	Competition Advisor Director, CityLab
Thomas Klobucar	Project Director, Western Sydney University
Michelle Lee	Director, Estate Planning and Strategy, Western Sydney University
Daniel Howard	Associate Director, Ethos Urban
Julia Moiso	Principal, Ethos Urban
Guy Pinkerton	Senior Design Advisor, GANSW
Adam Flynn	Department of Planning, Infrastructure and Housing
Madeline Thomas	Department of Planning, Infrastructure and Housing
Ingrid Zhu	Department of Planning, Infrastructure and Housing

Panel Feedback

Welcome to Country

The session commenced with a welcome to Country by Michelle Locke from the Indigenous Advisory Group (Darug – Boorooberongal).

The advice of the Panel is outlined in the table below.

Focus Area	Panel commentary
Overall progress	The Panel supports the overall development of the concept design, noting that while much work has been undertaken, the overall aesthetic, formal and spatial qualities of the Design Competition Concept design have been protected and positively built on in the SSDA package as presented. Members of both the Selection Committee and the Indigenous Advisory Panel independently verify that the overall design development progress of the concept design towards SSDA package has been undertaken collaboratively and enthusiastically by the design team. Regular design updates have been provided to WSU stakeholders, most notably to The University Elders Advisory Committee, who remain supportive of the project and its evolving design.
Material development	The Panel is interested in understanding how the concept design has developed in relation to material choices and the resolution of matters such as fire ratings, given the significant investment in timber interiors. The Panel is reassured that the selection of timber has been assessed to comply with two-hour fire rating, and that the building is fully serviced by sprinklers. The materiality of the cladding system is also of interest to the Panel. The Panel commends the progress made on façade development and it's continued evolution, noting that the design team is working closely with local manufacturers to construct a tailored profile for the project in alignment with the original Competition design intent. It is also noted that the design team are in the process of contacting local clay suppliers to source these products and ensure that this material is being extracted in a manner that is ethical and sensitive to environmental impacts. The Panel notes that the design team is being guided by advice from the cultural lead Danièle Hromek, who is providing strategic cultural advice and oversight to this process. While the design presents a unique and organic form, the Panel commends

	the design team developing an approach to the building that uses a serialized and panelised system to allow easy replacement and long-term maintenance, without compromising the overall design integrity of the building.
Sustainability	The Panel commends the overall sustainability approach and is assured that an array of photovoltaic cells is to be installed on the roof.
Viability	The Panel notes that the floor areas have been revised to provide greater efficiency and that one level has been removed, with slight revision of programmed spaces reallocated to other areas of the building to improve the overall user experience. Both changes have helped to reduce overall development costs. This also produces a reduced area of façade, which helps manage the cost of the development further. The Panel notes that, along with these cost saving design moves, the University has provided additional funding to help ensure the project is delivered to meet its aspirations.
Flexibility and adaptability	The Panel considers that it is of paramount importance that a degree of flexibility in the floorplates are maintained, to allow the program to develop and change over time to suit the University's needs and meet any future expansion demands. The Panel acknowledges that work has been undertaken to ensure that a high degree of modulation is able to be facilitated in the floorplate, and that the segmented approach to construction and service planning is able to provide for future flexibility, and to allow for areas to be adapted over time. It is acknowledged, however, that the design of the building is characterized by its unique form with a very sculptural identity and organic volume and as such, any future invitation for expansion beyond its existing volume (either vertically or laterally) may be challenging. Any future expansion of program will be considered through the University's place strategy.
Ground level connections	The Panel reiterates the critical importance of how the building connects with the land it sits on, to ensure appropriate levels of accessibility and permeability. The updated range of entry points are supported. It is noted that plans for addressing deliveries and loading in relation to the theatre are on-going. The Panel notes the intention to move the location of gallery loading on the northeast corner. Moving this location slightly to the east of its location in the competition submission will improve vehicular accessibility and allow greater area for the loading zone.
Western façade	The Panel notes that changes to the building form and façade at the theatre end of the building have resulted in a reduction to the original tapered form. The Panel notes that removal of the rooftop tapering at the outdoor rooftop multi-purpose court results in an elevation that presents a blunter form than the original competition scheme. The Panel notes that this change is a consequence of the reduced height of the parapet in this location which has driven this change in form. As a key elevation for the project, it is important to take steps to help mitigate this change to the building envelope.

	Matters for further development
Loading to Theatre	The Panel considers that it is critical to resolve servicing and loading access to the theatre carefully, given the importance of the northwest corner as a key arrival point into the Campus and an area of high public profile. The resolution of this, including the use of a mountable curb and other features, should balance the practical needs of theatre logistics with the overall urban design and landscape identity of the development, as well as its impacts on the public domain in a key zone for the wider Campus precinct.
Western façade	The Panel recommends that efforts are made to mitigate the loss of building tapering at its western end, and to ensure that any impacts to the buildings identity and façade form continues to uphold its sculptural sense of flow so that it maintains strong integration with its overall articulated form.

Conclusion

The matters for refinement were agreed as follows:

- Resolve approach to the theatre loading to ensure both appropriate functional and servicing requirements are met, as well as mitigating urban design and landscaping impacts to its important public domain interface to the key gateway arrival zone into the University at Railway Street.
- Explore material choices and other façade interventions to mitigate the impact of the tapering reduction at the northwest elevation, to ensure it upholds the design intent of its sculptural form and continuity of flowing soft curves that are characteristic of the overall building.

Further, it was agreed that the above matters are capable of being resolved post-submission of the SSDA and through the detailed design development phase.

Chair of Panel Endorsement

The Panel is satisfied that the design is capable of achieving design excellence, pending resolution of the above matters, and endorses the SSDA to be lodged with the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure for assessment.

This letter summarising the Design Integrity Panel's commentary from the session held on 8 July 2024 relating to Lot 100 in DP 816829 on the material presented by JCBA is endorsed by the Panel Chair.

Name	Signature
Dillon Kombumerri Principal Architect, GANSW	 24/7/2024